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PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Docket Number (Optional)

M-15543 US

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on January 10, 2006

Signature _____

Typed or printed name **Edward C. Kwok**

Application Number

09/886,427

Filed

6/20/2001

First Named Inventor

Charles P. Norman

Art Unit

3661

Examiner

Louis Jacques, J.

Applicant requests review of the final rejection in the above-identified application. No amendments are being filed with this request.

This request is being filed with a notice of appeal.

The review is requested for the reason(s) stated on the attached sheet(s).

Note: No more than five (5) pages may be provided.

I am the

☐

applicant/inventor.

☐

assignee of record of the entire interest.

See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.
(Form PTO/SB/96)

☒

attorney or agent of record.

Registration number **33,938**☐

attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.

Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34 _____

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Typed or printed name

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Telephone number

January 10, 2006

Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☐

*Total of _____ forms are submitted.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Charles P. Norman et al.
Assignee: SiRF Technology, Inc.
Title: Combined Parallel and Sequential Detection for GPS Signal Acquisition
Serial No.: 09/886,427 Filing Date: June 20, 2001
Examiner: J. Louis-Jacques Group Art Unit: 3661
Docket No.: M-15543 US

San Jose, California
January 10, 2006

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REASONS FOR REQUESTING PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REVIEW

Dear Sir:

These reasons support the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review filed in response to the Final Office Action of July 28, 2005. Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13-23 are appealed.

Claims 1-23 are pending. The Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in Claim 5-6 and 11-12.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,133,874 ("Krasner"). The Examiner states:

Krasner discloses a method and apparatus for acquiring satellite positioning system signals. According to Krasner, an acquisition dwell on a plurality of cells within a time/frequency uncertainty range is performed to detect a set of cells having the largest correlation peaks (column 3); an initial verification dwell on the set of acquired cells above is performed by comparing the peak of each cell to a threshold and retaining those cells having a peak at least as great as the threshold

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(figure 3). According further to Krasner, there is provided performing an acquisition dwell on another plurality of cells within the time/frequency uncertainty range to detect another set of cells having the largest correlation peaks (figure 9); performing a subsequent verification dwell on the retained cells and an initial verification dwell on the set of detected cells by comparing the peak of each cell to the threshold and retaining those cells having a peak at least as great as the threshold. See figures 3, 4 and 9-10. See also description at columns 10-15. Krasner also discloses a system and method for tracking (i.e., monitoring) the location or position of an object using signals transmitted by GPS satellites.

Appellant respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection is in error. Claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

c) performing an acquisition dwell on another plurality of cells within the time/frequency uncertainty range to detect another set of cells having the largest correlation peaks; and

d) performing a subsequent verification dwell on the cells retained in step b and an initial verification dwell on the set of cells detected in step c by comparing the peak of each cell to the threshold and retaining those cells having a peak at least as great as the threshold.

As explained in Appellants' Amendment of May 6, 2005, the term "cell" in Appellants' Specification and claims relate to a time-frequency point in the time-frequency uncertainty domain searched during a GPS signal acquisition. See, generally, for example, Applicants' Specification, at page 1, lines 15-25. Specifically, for example, Applicant's Specification, at page 6, lines 25-28, uses the term "cell" in the context of "a GPS receiver architecture having 511 correlators and a 64-tap FFT." The 64-tap 511 correlators are described to have "the capability to simultaneously search 32,704 cells in the time-frequency uncertainty domain."

These limitations are neither disclosed nor suggested in Krasner's Figure 9 or cols. 10-15. In Krasner's Figure 9 and cols. 10-15, Krasner discloses a GPS signal acquisition method based on an approximate geographical location of the GPS receiver determined using a "cell

based information source.” See, Krasner’s Figure 9, and col. 15, lines 29-31. Krasner’s “Summary of the Invention” section, at col. 4, lines 57-65, and in the “Detailed Description,” at col. 10, lines 3-7, specifically point out that Krasner uses the term “cell” to refer to a cellular communications system, in which the cells represent geographical region or location:

In one particular example of the present invention, the approximate location is determined from a cell based information source which correlates an identification of each of various wireless cell sites with an approximate location for objects within a cell serviced by a wireless cell site in a wireless cell based communication system, such as a cellular telephone system.

* * *

FIG. 4 shows an example of a cell based communication system 10 which includes a plurality of cell sites, each of which is designed to service a particular geographical region or location. Examples of such cellular based or cell based communication systems are well known in the art, such as the cell based telephone systems.

(emphasis added)

The term “cell” as used in Appellants’ Specification and claims are therefore distinguished over Krasner’s cells. Therefore, Appellants explained to the Examiner in the Amendment of May 6, 2005 that, not only are the limitations of Claim 1 neither disclosed nor suggested by Krasner, the Examiner’s rejection was erroneously based on an incorrect understanding of Krasner.

In response, in the Final Office Action of July 28, 2005, the Examiner states:

First, it is noted that Krasner discloses a method and apparatus for acquiring satellite positioning signals (title). The method and apparatus of Krasner acquire satellite positioning system (PS) signals in an SPS receiver (abstract). Krasner discloses that information on time of day, approximate receiver location, and satellite positions are used to reduce the time to search an acquire signals from one or more SPS satellites (abstract). The cells used in the Krasner are related to time or frequency in the time-frequency uncertainty range or domain

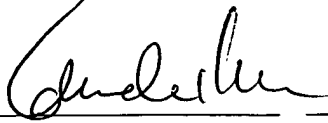
during signal acquisition. See column 3. Various different time-frequency domains are searched during the signal acquisition. Krasner, in column 10, provides an example of the use of the acquired signals in the time-frequency domain or range. See also columns 15 and 16. As pointed above, the cells referred to Krasner relate to or are data used in GPS signal processing.

The Examiner's response is again erroneous. First, Krasner's disclosures at cols. 10 and 15-16 do not relate to use time-frequency domain or range. Even at col. 3, where a time-frequency search is discussed, it neither discloses nor suggests the limitations of Claim 1 recited above. Further, the Examiner persists in his incorrect understanding of the term "cell" as used in Krasner's disclosure.

For the above reasons, Claim 1 and its dependent Claims 2-4 are therefore allowable over Krasner. For substantially the same reasons, Appellants submit that independent Claims 7, 13-14, 18 and 23, and their dependent Claims 8-10, 15-17 and 19-22, are also each allowable over Krasner.

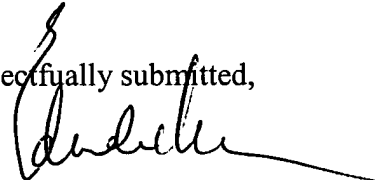
Therefore, all pending claims (i.e., Claims 1-23) are believed allowable over Wallstedt and Krasner. Reconsideration and their allowance is therefore requested. If the Examiner has any question regarding the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicant at (408)-392-9250.

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 1/10/2006

Attorney for Applicant(s) Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


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